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OFFICE OF NATIONAL AIDS POLICY
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
THE WHITE HOUSE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 10, 2000 (11:49 AM)

Office of the Vice President: (202) 456-7035
Office of Sandra Thurman: (202) 456-2959

**AIDS CZAR, IN AFRICA, APPLAUDS GORE
ANNOUNCEMENT ON
GLOBAL AIDS INITIATIVE**

KAMPALA, UGANDA - Sandra L. Thurman, Director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy, released the following statement from Kampala, Uganda, where she is on a four country tour to implement the LIFE Initiative, the new U.S. response to the global AIDS pandemic:

“Since the beginning of this relentless pandemic, it has been determined leadership that has made the most profound difference. Today, I am extremely pleased that Vice President Gore and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Richard Holbrooke, have seized this historic moment to lead the Security Council to its first consideration of a health issue. Today, the U.N. stated in no uncertain terms that our shared battle against AIDS is much more than a humanitarian crisis, it is an economic and a security crisis as well. If we are to win this war, it will take aggressive and concrete action from all sectors of all nations. Today’s action moves us decisively in that direction.”

For more information, please contact the Office of the Vice President at (202) 456-7035. For Sandra Thurman, on location in Uganda, please call (256) 77-221-293 or her office in Washington, D.C. at (202) 456-2959.

##30##

**THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF NATIONAL AIDS POLICY
“LIFE” INITIATIVE IMPLEMENTATION TOUR**

WHEN: January 8 – 23, 2000

WHERE: Uganda: the global success story
Rwanda: an example of how armed conflict exacerbates HIV/AIDS
Tanzania and Kenya: two countries with serious and growing HIV/AIDS situations where increased leadership and resources are needed

WHO: Sandra Thurman, Director, Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP)
Michael Iskowitz, Consultant, ONAP
Tom Niblock, Department of State
Kate Carr, CEO, Pediatric AIDS Foundation
Mary Fisher, President, Family AIDS Network
Ronald Johnson, Member, Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS

WHAT: In July 1999, the President proposed and Congress approved a LIFE Initiative, providing an additional \$100 million to enhance the USG's global AIDS program. This will more than double its efforts in Africa. The purpose of this trip is to work with host countries and non-governmental organizations on the implementation of this important initiative. As part of this trip, the new fiscal year 2000 country allotments will be announced and model community-based programs will be visited and promoted. In addition, meetings will be held with top government officials to ensure that host countries are fully engaged in their AIDS programs and know of the strong interest of the USG in a real partnership in the battle against AIDS.

LIFE Initiative funding will be used for: prevention, basic care and treatment, support for children orphaned by AIDS, and the development of infrastructure needed to realize these goals. During this trip, special attention will be given to a family package, which includes: reducing mother-to-child transmission, providing basic care and treatment, especially to mothers, and supporting children left behind.

WHY:

- ✓ The UN called AIDS the “most deadly undeclared war in human history”. In 1998, nearly 3 million people worldwide died of AIDS – more than 10 times the death toll of the war in Bosnia;
- ✓ More than 50 million people worldwide are already living with HIV/AIDS and that number is expected to double by 2005;
- ✓ More than 16,000 people become HIV-infected each day – half of whom are under the age of 25 – with the fastest growing rates of infection now found in India and South Asia;
- ✓ As UNICEF said today in releasing the State of the World's Children: “There can be little doubt that the same catastrophic combination of stigma, taboo, and silence that continues to fuel the deadly epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa is repeating itself in South Asia.”
- ✓ More than 11 million children have already lost their mother or both parents to AIDS, and by 2010 that number will rise to 40 million in sub-Saharan Africa alone; and,
- ✓ AIDS is not only a humanitarian crisis, but has been called the “single greatest threat to future economic development in Africa” by The World Bank.

Dr. Sandra Thurman
Director
Office of National AIDS Policy
The White House
736 Jackson Place
Washington DC 20503

December 7, 1999

Dear Dr. Sandra Thurman,

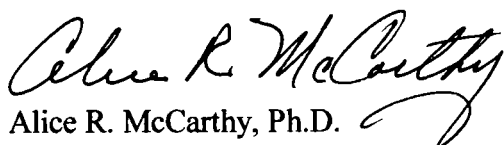
We want to take this opportunity to thank you so much for your contribution of time, energy, and interest to the project of bringing out the third edition of *Healthy Teens: Facing the Challenges of Young Lives*. Enclosed you will find a complimentary copy of the book as a show of our appreciation and gratitude. Your contribution toward the book helped to shape it into a meaningful, research-based, yet readable guide for parents and educators of teens and preteens. Along with the revised and updated content in many areas of the book comes a completely redesigned format, offering a professional-looking presentation of illustrations, photos, and text layout.

Enclosed you will find a very favorable review from the *Library Journal*. We are so pleased that librarians nationwide will learn about *Healthy Teens* from this premier publication.

Please enjoy the book, and share it with others, so that many parents and professionals can benefit from its valuable guidance in important issues of concern regarding adolescents. Please note that we are seeking further words of commendation about the book from those who would like to contribute. We have enclosed a form and an envelope if you would like to do this.

We wish you a peaceful and inspiring holiday season.

With Deep Thanks,


Alice R. McCarthy, Ph.D.



Karen Kittredge, M.S.W., M.Div.

*Dr. Thurman
Please
share with
others at
the Federal level
Keep up your
good work
Dear P. & R.
Thank you
Alice*

We have just received the good news that the *Library Journal* has completed a review of *Healthy Teens: Facing the Challenges of Young Lives*. It will be published in their December issue, and reads as follows:

MCCARTHY, ALICE R.

***HEALTHY TEENS: FACING THE CHALLENGES OF
YOUNG LIVES, 3RD ED.***

BRIDGE. JAN. 2000. C. 247P. ILLUS. INDEX.

ISBN 0-9721645-5-0. PAP. \$14.95.

CHILD REARING

The violent events that have occurred in schools this year are evidence of the problems facing parents of teenagers. The new edition of this guide for parents, educators, and others who work with teens provides a solid foundation for strengthening family and community bonds. The author, a specialist in parenting education, has raised five children. The popularity of previous editions of this work, created for schools in Michigan, resulted in a new version with national distribution. The book tells parents how to establish good relationships with their teenagers by providing consistent discipline, personal involvement, guidance, and academic opportunity. Open discussion of difficult subjects such as sexuality, substance abuse, and violence, as well as guidelines for safety and lifestyle help parents form bonds with their children and encourage community and school involvement. The resource lists at the end of each chapter are very useful. This book is a good addition to all parenting collections.

--*Library Journal*

Order Form

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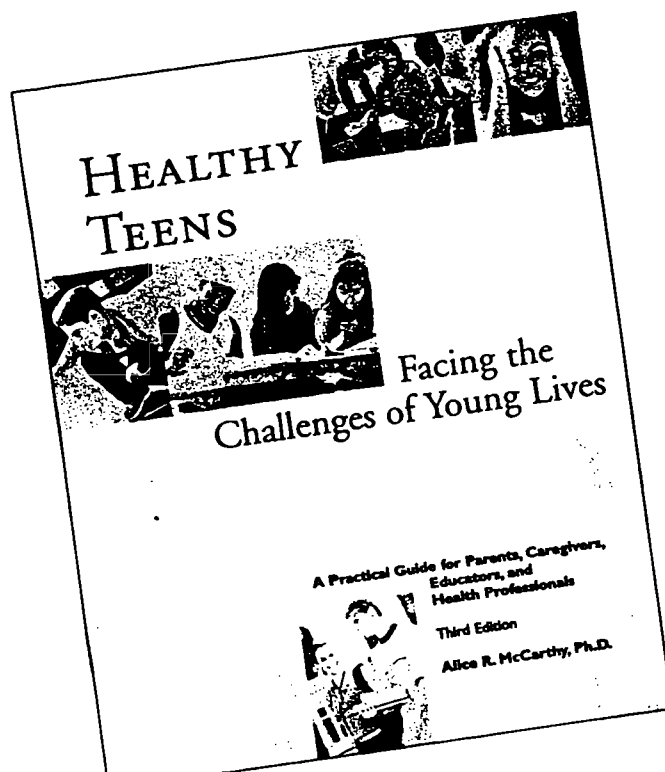
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HEALTHY TEENS

Facing the Challenges
of Young Lives

by Alice R. McCarthy, Ph.D.

Summary Comments for

Healthy Teens: Facing the Challenges of Young Lives, 3rd ed.

December 1999

I hereby give permission for Bridge Communications, Inc., to use part or all of these summary comments for their publicity materials for the book, Healthy Teens.

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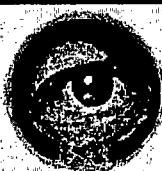
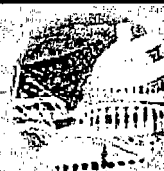
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World Report 2/14/00



AIDS in the classroom

Africa is losing teachers and students, and with them its hopes for the future

By Kevin Whitelaw

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Lawrence Mthombeni, the principal of a primary school outside the small farming town of Mtubatuba on South Africa's eastern coast, knew that something was wrong with one of his best teachers. He watched her struggle to keep teaching science despite a variety of illnesses. Finally, one day last year, she left the school for good, and students soon were whispering that she was bewitched. It was only months later that Mthombeni learned the sad truth: She died from AIDS.

AIDS is killing Africa's teachers—and with them the continent's hopes that education will bring a more prosperous future. The statistics, though spotty, are shocking: By some estimates, as many as a third of teachers in South Africa may be HIV positive, a higher infection rate than in the general population. In Zambia, 2 teachers are dying for every 1 that graduates from training school. And in Swaziland, the AIDS toll already has reduced teacher-to-student ratios to levels not seen since the 1970s.

Teachers, of course, are not the only victims of the growing HIV plague that infected 4 million Africans last year alone. But the loss of teachers reaches beyond personal tragedy because of their crucial role in shaping Africa's next generation. "Teachers who fall sick will not all be replaced, and you can never replicate a week or a term of teaching in the life of a child," says Alan Whiteside, a leading AIDS researcher at the University of Natal in Durban. "We face a generation growing up that is disaffected, unskilled, and desocialized because of AIDS."

Generation of orphans. AIDS has become the No.



Next Story

Previous Story



1 killer in sub-Saharan Africa, last year claiming 2.2 million lives, 10 times the death toll from all of Africa's civil wars. Life expectancy in 10 African countries has actually fallen below 1975 levels, almost entirely because of AIDS deaths. And with these deaths on the rise, living standards will erode further as child mortality shoots up and literacy rates decline. Already, many students—the majority of them girls—are forced to drop out to care for their infected parents or because their families can no longer afford school fees. And tragically, AIDS is creating a generation of orphans—already some 10 million in Africa—most of whom cannot afford schooling and therefore have little prospect of pulling themselves out of poverty. South Africa alone is projected to have 2.5 million orphans by 2010. In general, Africa's health and educational levels "could approach where we were not just 30 years ago but 100 years ago," frets Paul De Lay, chief of the AIDS division at the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Despite their higher level of education, teachers—along with health care workers, civil servants, and the military—are disproportionately infected. Often posted in rural areas away from their families, they are more likely to have sex with people to whom they are not married, including their students. And earning relatively high incomes, they can also afford prostitutes. In Zambia, one study showed that teachers were dying at rates nearly double that of other adults between the ages of 15 and 49 because of AIDS.

But alarm bells are only starting to ring in the corridors of power. Because it takes an average of six to eight years from infection to death, the countries have yet to feel the full impact of AIDS on their educational systems. That will change as the number of deaths soars. The disease threatens to erase South Africa's gains in education—particularly in terms of enrollment—since the days of apartheid, but it was only last year that the country's Ministry of Education finally launched a comprehensive study of the AIDS problem. "The Education Department is sheltered with a false sense of security because they're not dealing with corpses," says Peter Badcock-Walters, one of the few consultants to study AIDS in South Africa's schools.

The brain drain in education will intensify as private companies start woo-ing teachers to replace their own AIDS-related losses. Already, companies like British Petroleum and Barclays Bank are hiring two employees for some skilled jobs to hedge against AIDS deaths. School systems will be hard pressed to match the more lucrative private-sector salaries.

Some of the educational investment in today's children has already been lost as students become infected at startling rates as well. About half of those newly infected with AIDS are younger than 25. One survey at the University of Durban-Westville estimated that one third of its students are HIV positive. Educators complain that many students refuse counseling and are unwilling to use condoms.

Daphney Mdlalose knows the consequences. Growing up in Mtubatuba, she and her best friend, Lydia, talked about everything—school, dancing, and especially boys. "She was seeing three boys at the same time—a student, a soldier, and one of our teachers," says Mdlalose, 17. "I told her that it wasn't a good idea because she might get AIDS, but Lydia just laughed at me." One day, Lydia vanished from her high school in the KwaZulu Natal province. She returned months later, frail and sick. Not long after, she died a victim of AIDS at only 17. Nomathiya Tech High School lost not only a promising student—it lost her teacher as well.

Ironically, the classroom should be one of the most powerful tools for AIDS prevention. But many students in KwaZulu Natal say the subject of this silent killer is rarely discussed in schools. "Since parents don't take responsibility, teachers should talk about it—but they don't," said one high school student who asked for anonymity. Even educators admit the taboos are powerful. "People here are traditionally brought up and are afraid to talk about anything that has to do with sex," says Principal Mthombeni. Most death certificates still list diseases like pneumonia and tuberculosis, rather than AIDS, as the cause of death. In one highly publicized incident, a South African woman was beaten to death after admitting she was HIV positive. Sandra Thurman, who heads the White House Office of National AIDS Policy, notes that leadership on breaking taboos needs to come from the top. But she adds that when President Clinton went to Africa last year and tried to hold an event on AIDS, no country would agree to host it for fear of discouraging investment.

Glimmers of hope. The outlook is bleak, but not hopeless. African nations that have shown strong leadership have been able to stem the infection tide. Take the example of Uganda. One of the earliest victims, its government mounted a comprehensive anti-AIDS strategy.

Advertisements tout the necessity of safe sex, while each government ministry is required to make AIDS prevention a top priority. Its measures have succeeded in cutting HIV rates in urban areas in half. Some of the worst-hit countries in southern Africa, like Zambia, are now coming to grips with the full impact of the disease and starting similar efforts.

U.S. officials do not expect the epidemic to peak until 2030. Daphney Mdlalose, having lost her best friend to AIDS, now tries to protect her fellow students. As a member of a song-and-dance ensemble, she tours local schools to educate students about AIDS and tries to lead by example. "I am a virgin," she smiles. Africa's future will very likely be built on brave young people like her.

With Stefan Lovgren in South Africa

PSA Draft

Fade In
INTERIOR

Long lens tight head shot leaves background completely out of focus

SANDY

There are still people who believe AIDS only destroys the lives of gay men and that the new drug treatments mean everyone infected, survives. Fact is that young heterosexual women make up the most rapidly expanding group of America's AIDS population and more than 50 per cent of infected Americans still get NO treatment! Millions believe that the AIDS epidemic is winding down. The truth is that AIDS is sweeping across the world and in a few short years, over a hundred million people will be dead of AIDS. The good news is you have the power to keep yourself healthy.



OFFICE OF NATIONAL AIDS POLICY
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
THE WHITE HOUSE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 1, 2000

CONTACT: (202) 456-2959

**WHITE HOUSE AIDS CZAR CALLS FOR
CONTINUED BIPARTISAN SUPPORT IN THE
FIGHT AGAINST AIDS**

Washington, D.C. - The US has been a strong leader in responding to the global AIDS pandemic and is the largest contributor to AIDS efforts around the world and to UNAIDS (the United Nations Joint Program on AIDS). The US contributed \$225 million in FY2000 for prevention and treatment programs worldwide. This enabled us to more than double our funding for AIDS programs in Africa. The President has requested an additional \$100 million in the FY2001 budget to further expand these essential efforts.

With the AIDS pandemic clearly outpacing all earlier projections, there is a growing understanding of the magnitude of this crisis. AIDS is not just a health issue, but a fundamental development issue, an economic issue, and a security and stability issue. When the Vice President addressed the UN Security Council in January, he clearly stated that AIDS is a national security crisis and encouraged all leaders around the world to treat it as such.

"In just a few short years, AIDS in Africa has wiped out decades of hard work and steady progress in development and will soon double infant mortality, triple child mortality, and slash life expectancy by 20 years or more," stated Sandra Thurman, Director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy. "Clearly, as this crisis unfolds, it will have a terribly destabilizing effect, with untold economic, social and political consequences. As the National Intelligence Council's recent report warns as goes Africa, so will go India, Southeast Asia and the former Soviet Union. At the end of the day, this global pandemic will make the bubonic plague of the middle ages pale in comparison unless our response is finally commensurate with the magnitude of this emergency. Just as democrats and republicans have come together on issues of national security in the past, I am pleased that there is a growing bi-partisan consensus

on the need to dramatically expand US leadership in the battle against AIDS worldwide.”

This broader focus now enables us to move forward with the two key components necessary to win the war on AIDS: leadership and resources.

This effort will require billions of dollars and a sustained commitment if it is going to be effective. The United States Government clearly cannot, and should not, chart this course alone. It will require a major new investment from other donors in the developed world and the reprioritization of funds from nations hardest hit by the epidemic. It will also require increased engagement of the private sector and multilateral institutions.

To that end, the US is working on a four-point strategy which includes:

- **Increased bilateral assistance -**
Our direct contribution to AIDS efforts in other countries.
- **Multilateral coordination -**
Our ongoing commitment to UNAIDS and other multilateral institutions to support better coordination and support of global AIDS efforts.
- **Debt forgiveness -**
Support for the use of funds supplied by forgiveness of debt in the world's poorest nations for use in social and health programming including HIV/AIDS programs.
- **Engaging the private sector -**
Working with business and labor to increase their involvement in the fight against AIDS.

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##30##

Focus on SANDRA THURMAN:

**After eight months
as AIDS czar for the Clinton administration
Atlantan, Sandra Thurman keeps going in the face
of opposition.**

BYLINE: M.A.J. McKenna STAFF WRITER
DATE: 11-30-1997
PUBLICATION: The Atlanta Journal and Constitution
EDITION:
SECTION: Newspapers_&_Newswires
PAGE: A18

There is no getting around the subject, so you might as well deal with it up front:
When people imagine an AIDS activist, Sandra Lyne Thurman is not what they see.

Tall, slender, blond, French-manicured, in a slim black suit and a big yellow diamond, Thurman is a checklist of double takes: not male, not gay, not angry, not black leather-Doc Marten-downtown.

It feels incorrect, these days, to suggest that appearance is a factor in success. But ignoring that Thurman is beautiful would be like ignoring that she is political to her bones. Her looks, and the way men with money and power react to them, have been a constant in her life for more than 20 years.

Because she is supremely practical, she recognizes this. Because she is deeply committed to the cause of AIDS, she uses it, when she has to. "My father used to say," she says serenely, "that by the time anyone figured out I had a brain, I had their signature on the bottom line and their check in the bank."

Atlanta in D.C.

Thurman has been director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy for eight months. The 44-year-old Atlantan took the job at a time of great hope and great tumult: Deaths were decreasing, and the enormous early success of potent new drugs spurred hope that AIDS might become a survivable disease. But the drugs' success also sparked a belief that the epidemic had ended, threatening funding needed for the rising rates of infection among women, minorities and the poor.

From the start, Thurman was clear on her priorities: giving AIDS a strong voice at the White House; linking local groups to national policy-making; restoring the government's ability to provide clean free needles for addicts; finding funds for AIDS vaccine research.

One day before World AIDS Day, the verdict is mixed. Front-line activists still claim Thurman as one of their own. There has been major success: Barely a month after Thurman took office, President Bill Clinton announced a \$150 million federal initiative to find a vaccine. But there also has been significant frustration: Despite her efforts, progress on needle exchanges has stalled. She has emerged as the Administration's most vivid and fluent commentator on the epidemic. Last week, the United Nations reported the global AIDS situation to be much worse than had been thought: Up to 30.6 million HIV infections around the world, mostly in the developing world.

Thurman, just returned from a fact-finding trip to Africa, was ready with the big picture. "I think we knew the epidemic was moving faster than we could capture, but I had no idea the numbers would be as large as they are in fact," she said in an interview.

Ties to Clinton campaigns

Thurman has spent 15 years in the struggle against AIDS, and she retains an undiminished anger and passion. "No one should take this job," she said not long ago, "who hasn't changed an adult diaper with their own hands."

She spent 10 of those years at AID Atlanta, steering it from the brink of collapse to the largest AIDS service provider in the Southeast. After short stints with the Carter Center and the U.S. Information Agency, the call came from Clinton offering her the position of "AIDS czar."

A longtime friend of adviser James Carville, Thurman had worked in the 1992 and 1996 campaigns. For someone like Thurman, raised to a family tradition of public service, there is only one answer to a presidential request. She moved into a small office near the White House, working among empty Diet Coke cans, stacks of pink phone messages and a signed photo of Clinton, who told reporters he had chosen her because "she speaks the truth unvarnished."

Some groups complained early on that her job was a patronage position; once again, they said, the post had gone to someone whose expertise was politics, not science. But other activists fired back. "I want my doctor to know medicine and my White House person to know politics, and that's what I got," said Mike Shriver, deputy executive director for policy at the National Organization of People with AIDS. "AIDS Action gives her very high marks at this point," said Daniel Zingale, executive director of the powerful national organization. "We've seen the highest levels of federal funding for care, prevention, research and housing ever this year, and Sandy helped to fuel that success."

Family of crusaders

Thurman has a Southerner's acute consciousness of history, and a rich past to draw on. "My mother was the chair of the Georgia Democratic Party," she said. "My mother's mother was an advocate for prisoners' rights. And my great-grandmother believed in education for all children, including black children, which in Rome, Ga., at the turn of the century was not the most popular position."

It is hard to talk for long about Thurman without hearing about her mother, who died in 1982. "Marge was larger than life, literally and figuratively," said Thurman's ex-husband Michael Clutter, an attorney and restaurant investor who owns Bulldog & Co., a gay bar in Midtown. "I am 6 feet, and when we stood toe-to-toe I had to look up to make eye contact. And she was an attorney, in the South, back when it was hard to be an attorney at all and be a woman."

One of Marge Thurman's first cases was a black woman who had defended herself from an abusive husband and was convicted of murder, at age 14. When her parole came up, Marge --- unable to find her a job anywhere else ---took her on as a mother's helper. "When I was 5 years old, one of my little classmates taught me a word that she said meant my nanny was a different color," Sandy Thurman recalled. "I'd never heard the word; I didn't know what it meant, and I didn't know it was bad. So I went home that day, and I called my nanny a nigger."

Telling the story, Thurman's eyes pooled with tears. "The look on her face. . . . She cried. When I realized I'd hurt my nanny, I was hysterical. When Mother realized what had happened, she had to call Dad to come home and deal with all of us. When we all calmed down, I told them I would never go back to that school. And give my parents credit: Even though I was only 5 years old, they never made me."

When Thurman tells the story, she portrays herself merely as stubborn. State Rep. Jim Martin (D-Morningside), who knew mother and daughter, sees instead a young girl who already had absorbed her family tradition. "What's so effective about Sandy is that she realizes the issues of the AIDS epidemic aren't new issues," he said. "Her commitment is a long commitment to human rights and human dignity, and people who are sick with AIDS are the latest group to be discriminated against."

New goal in time of sorrow

Sandy Thurman, an only child, swore she would never go into the family business; not her mother's law practice or her father's clothing manufacturing, but the real family business of politics. She got a liberal-arts degree from Mercer University, worked in prison counseling and health care, married Clutter and did volunteer fund-raising for the March of Dimes and the Atlanta Ballet. And then, in little more than a year, her father, her mother, her grandmother, her nanny and her best friend all died. The cumulative trauma sent her life round a sharp turn. She cast about for something meaningful to do; when friends began to die of AIDS, she found it.

She began delivering meals and keeping patients company. She had nursed her father through cancer at home; the dirty details of serious illness were familiar to her. "I have been on the front lines," she said. "I have taken care of patients, I have been with mothers when children died in their arms, I have been at more deathbeds than I can ever count. I never forget that."

Tony Braswell inherited the leadership of AID Atlanta not long after Thurman left. "The best way that you learn about AIDS is to live it, and Sandy lived this disease," he said. In the early '80s, Thurman began fund-raising for AID Atlanta, which was understaffed and \$200,000 in debt. Clutter, amicably divorced from Thurman in 1982, recalls how quickly she immersed herself in AIDS activism. His business partner, close to both of them, had been one of the first of their friends to go. "Early on, there was such a sense of futility: You'd wonder who would be next to die," he said. "It scared me ---but it energized Sandy."

Thurman became public affairs director in 1988 and executive director in 1989. She helped start the AIDS Walk and ArtCare, two major Atlanta fund-raising events. By the time she left, in 1993, the group had a staff of 90 and a budget of \$4 million. She did it in part by relying on the sucker-punch combination of Southern polish and political savvy. "I actually once had a guy say to me, 'What's a nice girl like you doing in work like this?' " she said. "And I said to him, because I needed his signature on something, 'Mr. Senator, I started as a volunteer. I was raised on a long tradition of volunteer service, and I'm sure your family was, too.' And he was fine with that. And I knew he would be."

Debate over needle exchanges

Thurman inspires allegiance. Last summer, she spoke at the National Gay and Lesbian Medical Association's annual meeting in Atlanta. The applause was cut by a chant that swept the assembly: "Needle exchange now! Needle exchange now!"

As the noise increased, a shaven-headed man in black jeans and a fruit-bedecked cocktail hat climbed on a chair to yell: "We don't mean you, Sandy, honey. We know you're with us."

Needle exchanges have been Thurman's toughest challenge so far. Studies show that providing free clean needles can reduce HIV infection in addicts and their sexual partners, who account for at least one-third of HIV infections. When she was named to the job, Thurman publicly supported exchanges, even though Congress outlawed federal funding for them. Then, for a while, she seemed to soft-pedal. "In my current position, there are a variety of factors I have to take into account; I can't just come out and say I think this is a great idea," she said a few months after taking the job.

But insiders say she engineered the defeat of a proposal to strip the secretary of Health and Human Services of the authority to allow exchanges once certain conditions are met. "It isn't Sandy's fault the ban on funding for exchanges hasn't been lifted," said Dr. Arthur Ammann, president of the American Foundation for AIDS Research. "She's presented a very clear message to the secretary and the president that this has to be a priority," he said.

Friends say there is little chance Thurman has changed her views. "She'll pick her times and targets," said Ken Britt, executive director of the law firm of Alston & Bird and the current board chairman of AID Atlanta. And just last week, she sounded ready to take the issue public once again. Congress has imposed a six-month moratorium before any needle swaps may start.

Thurman's response: "We can't stand by and indulge ourselves in petty politics when people are dying."

A 24-hour-a-day job

Thurman has won deep loyalty in part because she seems inexhaustible ---in political work, and on the rare occasions when she allows herself to have fun. "Sandy took me out one year to Hotlanta," Shriver said. "She took me to this party, and that party; she was still going strong, but I had to throw in the towel. "

Confirms Braswell: "She can be at a drag show at the Armory until 4 a.m., and be ready to meet the board of Coca-Cola the next morning." Thurman is drawing deeply on her energy resources these days. The AIDS czar's office is widely considered to be both underfunded and understaffed.

Though she has some help ---a policy person, a press person and some staff ---the position's impact comes down to Thurman: her personality, her Rolodex, and her ability to keep going in the face of opposition. "I think this is all she can handle right now," Clutter said. "This movement is her lover, and it's a jealous one. It would be very hard to compete with."

Thurman inadvertently confirms that. "There have been nights I was so tired I never went home," she said in her Washington office. "I fall asleep on this couch, get up, go home to take a shower, and come back again. "I'll do this as long as I can humanly stand it ---or get fired, whichever comes first."

The Atlanta Constitution

TUESDAY, OCT. 3, 2000

TODAY'S PAPER / ONLINE AT AJC.COM

Despite precautions, AIDS infection rate refuses to drop

By Gracie Bonds Staples
gstaples@ajc.com



LOUIE FAVORITE / Staff

Sandra Thurman, the president's envoy on AIDS, returned Monday to Atlanta.

African-Americans and Hispanics represent nearly 70

percent of the new AIDS cases among that age group, according to "Youth and HIV/AIDS 2000: A New American Agenda." The report was issued during the U.S. Conference on AIDS in Atlanta.

"It's hard to explain," said Presidential AIDS envoy Sandra Thurman, who released the findings at a news conference Monday at Cross Keys High School in

northeast Atlanta. "That's one of the reasons we need to do more research. We know the basics. We know what kind of information to give them to help them protect themselves, but we need to define what those messages need to be with greater specificity."

"That's particularly true with high-risk groups — children living in poverty, children in abusive

situations, children who are experimenting with drugs, children who have low self-esteem."

Thurman is one of more than 3,000 local and national AIDS activists in town for the three-day conference, which is being sponsored by the National Minority AIDS Council in partnership with 20 national AIDS advocacy

➤ PLEASE SEE AIDS, A7

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Key points to watch for as George W. Bush and Al Gore face off in their first presidential debates tonight. **A3**

City makes indirect war

Developer may exit rail project

By Tony Wilbert

Refugee project chie



■ Atlanta's Norman Catholic Archbishop John F. Donoghue serves as president of the board of Catholic Social Services, which averages about 20 members.

■ Jim Kantner, secretary for Catholic Charities, oversees a range of programs including Catholic Social Services, personal care homes, retirement facilities and housing initiatives. Kantner, a clinical psychologist, has been



with the agency for about five years and served as secretary for the past year. He has also worked as a lay volunteer in Mayan missions in Mexico.

■ Pam Buckmaster is executive director of Catholic Social Services. Buckmaster, a 16-



year veteran of the agency, has been executive director since 1993. She previously served as acting sec-

retary of Catholic charities. Buckmaster is a former trustee of Catholic Charities U.S.A.



■ Bui Van Tam, program director for migration and refugee services, is a former Vietnamese refugee who has been with

Catholic Social Services for more than 20 years.

baggy jeans and tennis shoes, Solomon took a nervous glance around the room before the hearing began. He quietly answered the judge's questions with "yes, sir" and "no, sir," but did not make additional statements.

His mother and stepfather sat behind him with a clergyman. Four of the six victims and their families also were present, and

appropriate sentence.

"We just heard something that everybody knew all along," Cheek said as he walked to his car in the courthouse parking lot. "There's nothing new today."

Solomon's pleas covered all the charges against him: 18 counts of aggravated assault, six of cruelty to children and five weapons violations.

AIDS: Infection rates stubbornly high, says federal official

► Continued from A1

and governmental organizations.

Appointed to her current position by President Clinton in 1997, Thurman previously headed AID Atlanta, which became the largest AIDS service organization in the South under her leadership.

Thurman said the findings speak to a couple of things. "One is we're facing a lot of complacency about HIV and AIDS in this country, generally speaking," she said. "And . . . young people think that they are not at risk for HIV infection."

Thurman pointed to a recent MTV poll that indicated 87 percent of young people think they are not at risk. "What's interesting is that while a vast majority of young people know the risk factors for HIV, they don't think that applies to them," she said.

What's worse, Thurman said, is that most young people who are HIV-infected don't know it and the vast majority do not receive adequate medical care. "They need youth-friendly access to HIV counseling and testing, medical care, including mental health

care, and other support services," she said.

During a question-and-answer period, during which one student thanked Thurman and the others for "coming and relating to us," students said they need more detailed information about how AIDS is transmitted and they need on-campus testing and counseling. They said condoms should be made available on school campuses.

Asked by a student why tests for HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases are not available at school, Thurman said, "I don't think there is a reason we can't, we just don't do it. As we look at how we provide health care to young people, that's a conversation we need to have."

In interviews after the program, which included a lively performance by Project Magic, a local teen theater group, Cross Keys students Isabel Soto and Inez Mills criticized the information school officials dispense, especially before high school, and said more needs to be done.

"A lot of people start to have sex when they're 14," said

But Juvenile Court Judge William Schneider denied the motion. The victims' testimony will likely carry "great weight" in Solomon's sentencing, said Atlanta defense attorney Alan Baverman, who has followed the case.

"The difference is whether the victims and their families view him as a troubled youth or are out for revenge," he said.

across the street said the news didn't cause a stir at the school. But junior Craig Pittman said the shooting still comes up in conversation, and Solomon's pleas did make some students feel better.

"It's good that he's taken responsibility for what he did," said Pittman, 17. "You can't forgive him, but he did the right thing" by admitting blame.

BY THE NUMBERS

■ About 20,000 young people ages 13-25 are infected with HIV each year in the United States, a rate of two per hour.

■ More females than males in the 13-19 age group are being infected — 63 percent of the 828 HIV cases in this age group last year. Of the 2,386 HIV infections in the 20-24 age group in 1999, 44 percent were in females.

youth are sexually active.

"These kids are hollering for information that is culturally appropriate, youth sensitive and explicit," he said. "The science shows that that's what youth respond to."

Harvey said that in the four years since the first White House report on youth and HIV/AIDS, an estimated 80,000 American teens and young adults have become infected.

"Put simply, our teens are drowning and we've provided no lifeboats to save them," he said.

Cross Keys High was chosen for the AIDS presentation because of its cultural diversity: 35 percent of students speak Spanish as their primary language, and while the school is in an affluent area, 48 percent receive free or subsidized lunches and 31 percent come from single-parent homes.

Dr. Eric Goosby, director of HIV/AIDS policy for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, attributed the number of HIV infections to young people's perception of themselves as invulnerable.

17-year-old Soto, "but they don't elaborate in middle school. They just tell you you can get it from sex and sharp objects."

Soto said she was horrified when at age 14 she cut herself while shaving her legs. "I thought I had AIDS because they had told me you got it through sharp objects," she remembered.

David Harvey, executive director of the AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth & Families in Washington, D.C., said part of what prevents explicit sex education is adults who don't want to admit

HIV-infection rates on rise for young gay men

Youth, minorities spotlighted in U.S. Conference on AIDS

by PAIGE PARVIN

ATLANTA—Young people, including young gay men, are being infected with HIV at a rate of two per hour, while new cases continue to climb among racial minorities, according to new statistics released this week in conjunction with the U.S. Conference on AIDS.

"This is increasingly an epidemic affecting people of color, women, and the young," Dr. David Satcher, U.S. Surgeon General, said Tuesday.

Recent data from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention indicate that African Americans, who make up 12 percent of the population, accounted for more than 50 percent of the estimated 40,000 new HIV infections from July 1999 to June 2000.

Latinos, who make up 11 percent of the population, accounted for 19 percent of new HIV infections.

Half of all new HIV infections—about 20,000 a year—are believed to occur in young people aged 13-24, many of whom are black and Latino, Sandra Thurman, director of the Office of National AIDS Policy, said Monday during an appearance at Atlanta's Cross Keys High School.



Prevention is tough for young, gay black men, who are on the 'fringes of society,' said U.S. Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher.

By their senior year of high school, 65 percent of American youth are sexually active.

Since the first White House report on HIV and youth in 1996, some 80,000 teens and young adults have become infected, according to new findings.

"Put simply, our teens are drowning and we've provided no lifeboats to save them," said David Harvey, executive director of the AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth and Families, which helped compile the report. "Abstinence-only AIDS prevention programs are not enough. ... Teens need comprehensive sex education and condoms to prevent early pregnancy, HIV and STDs."

Of the new HIV infections reported last year among men aged 13-24, at least half were the result of unprotected sex with other men, according to the report.

"We have failed to re-tool prevention efforts to meet the needs of young gay men coming of age," Harvey told *Southern Voice*. "Future prevention efforts have to address them in a way that is effective and appropriate. The reality is, young people do not see their peers and friends sick and dying." Thurman called for more frank, direct prevention efforts aimed at youth.

"This report reminds us that behavior change is still the key to preventing HIV," she told the packed gymnasium. "We must be willing to insist that young people know the facts about HIV and have the tools to protect themselves."

Youth at higher risk need additional help, Thurman said, including those "confronted with racism, poverty and homophobia."

Cross Keys students asked Thurman questions after she spoke, demanding to know why their school doesn't offer education about sex and AIDS.

"We have to go to the local level, to look to the community, to make sure this information is easily accessible," Thurman said, adding that school programs are federally-funded but many schools don't tackle the issue head-on.

A Cross Keys student told *Southern Voice* that most kids he knows "don't even think about AIDS."

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"You know Eminem, who all the gays and lesbians were against?" he volunteered, referring to the white rapper under fire for his anti-gay lyrics. "It works the same way here. A lot of people are into his music."

Asked if a protest of Eminem would be likely to occur at his school, Kigelman grinned broadly. "No way," he answered.

'Stigma of homosexuality' still plagues prevention

Young gay men in urban areas are at particularly high risk for HIV, Satcher said, especially men of color. A recent survey in seven cities found seven percent of young gay men were infected, with 19 percent of those being African-American.

"This is a group that tends to see themselves on the fringes of society," Satcher said of black gay men. "They cannot come forward and admit they are gay, much less be tested. ... The stigma surrounding homosexuality and HIV prevents people from getting tested."

Of the total new HIV cases among women, black and Latino women make up 78 percent, according to the findings released at the conference, which was organized by the National Minority AIDS Council and drew some 3,000 attendees.

People who have been arrested, high school dropouts, and homeless persons are also at disproportionately high risk for the disease, Satcher said, adding that many of these are racial minorities as well.

"The prevention challenge is great," he said Tuesday. Minority communities don't typically identify themselves as being at high risk, Satcher said, and are often mistrustful of federal programs.

Satcher cited two federal initiatives, the Leadership Campaign on AIDS and Crisis Response Team, which are working to curb the AIDS epidemic in minorities.

The Leadership Campaign is reaching out to religious leaders, among others, to help them develop effective responses to AIDS, Satcher said.



Atlanta native Sandra Thurman, the White House AIDS czar, said Monday 65 percent of youth have sex by their senior year, and schools need to do more to educate them about HIV.

But getting black church leaders to acknowledge gay members at all, much less in their prevention and education efforts, is a slow process, according to two African-American AIDS activists who work directly with black churches.

"Stigma comes out of sin, and sin has its roots in the belly of the church," Pernessa Seele, founder of the Balm in Gilead, said during Tuesday's press conference. "It is where social norms are set."

Later, Seele said her organization urges churches "not to use their theological position on homosexuality and condom use as an excuse to not address HIV and AIDS."

"We have seen that when the church gets involved with HIV, it opens the door for acceptance of the gay community," Seele told *Southern Voice*. "But I have found that if we go in with a homosexual agenda up front, we never get to the HIV agenda."

Rev. Edwin Sanders, pastor of a non-denominational black church in Nashville, said he works with other churches to help them develop AIDS ministries, and encourages them to be inclusive and accepting of gays.

"I think all of us have to be inclusive, and not to do that is contrary to the teachings of Jesus," he said. "But we have a long way to go."

Quilt founder debuts South African panels

by JENNIFER J. SMITH

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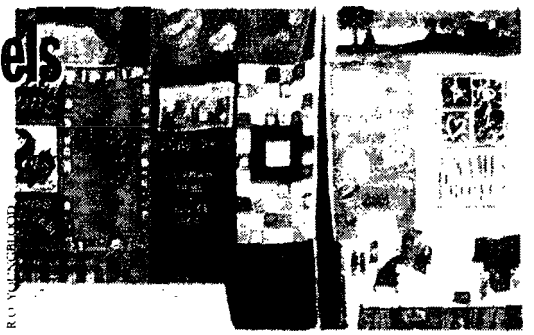
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"There's very good reason for us to be focusing on South Africa and the rest of Africa right now," said Jones. "First, these people are striving to create a democratic, multi-racial society where 60 to 70 percent

positive, and they are fast approaching a total infection rate of 1 in 4."

"Secondly, South Africa is the key to the entire continent. If we lose South Africa, we lose Africa as a whole," he warned.

Touring the U.S. through January, Jones hopes the African Quilts will be a way to further involve the African-American



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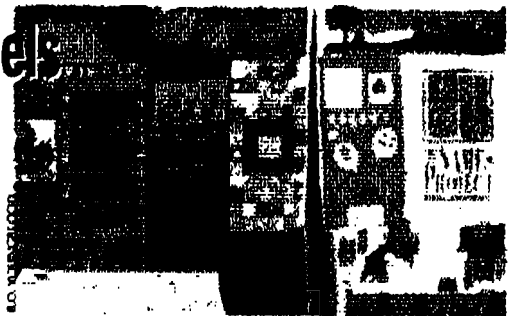
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Sandy Thurman

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copied to
Thurman
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AIDS Envoy: 'A Cashmere Glove Over A Steel Fist'

*Thurman Tackles Pandemic
With Soft-Spoken Bluntness*

By **BARTON GELLMAN**
Washington Post Staff Writer

NEW YORK—The king of Swaziland shouldered Tom Rosshirt aside the other day as the White House speechwriter angled toward Sandra L. Thurman. His Majesty Mswati III wrapped Thurman in a warm embrace and called her Sandy. Then came President Paul Kagame of Rwanda. Then President Jerry Rawlings of Ghana.

When Rosshirt escaped with Thurman downstairs from the Waldorf Astoria's Palm Room, where President Clinton had just spoken to African leaders about AIDS, the scene replayed. A Zambian stopped to book a spot on Thurman's calendar for President Frederick Chiluba. Then it was the foreign minister of Thailand.

Usually, it is an ambassador who has to work a room, angling for face-time with heads of state. These days, the world is working its way toward Sandy Thurman, for the unlikely reason that she is President Clinton's personal envoy in the global fight against AIDS.

Clinton plucked Thurman, an Atlanta activist and third-generation Georgia pol, to be director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy more than three years ago. Last month, amid intensified attention to the pandemic's global toll, he added an international portfolio. The scale of the catastrophe—19 million dead, 34 million dying—has begun to sink in with world leaders, and Thurman aims to help coordinate the global response.

Smart money said she would not get the job. Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright and Frank Loy, undersecretary of state for global affairs, wanted to fill the post with a foreign service officer, reporting to them. After six months of internal debate, they thought they were winning that fight. In July, Loy announced that the naming of a career ambassador was imminent. The next day, he called a reporter to retract the report.

People have a way of underestimating Thurman, who dresses for society, calls most everyone "love" or "dear" and lets her blond hair drape over her shoulders at 47.

"My daddy used to have a saying that I had the check in the bank before most people realized I had a brain," Thurman recalled.

"Time and time and time again" people mistake her

Players

Sandra L. Thurman

Title: Director, Office of National AIDS Policy; presidential envoy for AIDS cooperation.

Age: 47.

Education: Bachelor's degree, Mercer College.

Previous jobs: Director, Office of Citizen Exchanges, State Department; director of advocacy programs, Task Force for Child Survival and Development, Carter Center; executive director, AID Atlanta.

manners for softness, said James Carville, an old flame of Thurman's from their days on former Georgia governor Zell Miller's 1990 campaign. "The State Department and everybody's taken a run at her, and they ain't the better for it. She kind of has a cashmere glove over a steel fist."

Carville demurred about their romance, except to recall that "she dragged me to I don't know how many damn fundraisers" for humanitarian causes.

After five years as executive director of AID Atlanta, a community support and care program for people living with AIDS, Thurman had sweet-talked donors into tripling her budget. She took leave to serve as political director of Clinton's 1992 Georgia campaign, but stayed in health care advocacy until Clinton's second term.

Thurman is blunter, in her gracious southern way, than is common among high-level appointees. She made clear in public, within months of becoming AIDS "czarina," that she strongly disagreed with the president's decision against funding for needle exchanges to prevent the spread of AIDS among drug abusers.

And she did it without making an enemy of Barry McCaffrey, her White House counterpart for drugs, who opposed such funding. Earlier this year, she even lured the retired Persian Gulf War general to a soup kitchen for AIDS patients, where he pronounced the grub "top 1 percent Army mess hall, which I would take as a compliment."

She describes Air Force One, on which she flew most recently to Tanzania and Nigeria with Clinton, as "16 hours trapped with 40 of your co-workers, like a big bus with wings."

"Of course I'm burned out," she said, in mock exasperation. "I've been doing this for 18 years!"

But not too burned out to spend her vacation on the "family disease"—politics. Thurman's mother was a Georgia Democratic Party chairman, and Thurman knows where the power is. Her job at the Los Angeles convention was running credentials. If you wanted someone in, said Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), "who [were] you picking up the phone to talk with? Sandy Thurman. She catches you one way or the other."

In her White House office, Thurman has only six staff members to help coordinate AIDS policies that spend billions of dollars across a dozen agencies. Some colleagues in other departments describe her Jackson Place townhouse headquarters as a black hole for paperwork. She has a way of missing meetings, or saying the date is no good, that "stops progress dead in the water" when she does not like the direction her colleagues are going, one of them said.

Thurman said before leaving for Africa last month that she is "very sensitive to the quality of work that comes out of this office" and agreed she might not "move as quickly as people would like." But when she came back she took a steelier line.

"The more I thought about that, the more it ticked me off," she said. "With such a small staff we operate in triage mode, so most of our energy goes where the bodies are dropping fastest. . . . There's a certain level of arrogance to folks thinking what is their priority ought to be [my] priority."

Sandy

*This is a great
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Players

Sandra L. Thurman

Title: Director, Office of National AIDS Policy; presidential envoy for AIDS cooperation.

Age: 47.

Education: Bachelor's degree, Mercer College.

Previous jobs: Director, Office of Citizen Exchanges, State Department; director of advocacy programs, Task Force for Child Survival and Development, Carter Center; executive director, AID Atlanta.

manners for softness, said James Carville, an old flame of Thurman's from their days on former Georgia governor Zell Miller's 1990 campaign. "The State Department and everybody's taken a run at her, and they ain't the better for it. She kind of has a cashmere glove over a steel fist."

Carville demurred about their romance, except to recall that "she dragged me to I don't know how many damn fundraisers" for humanitarian causes.

After five years as executive director of AID Atlanta, a community support and care program for people living with AIDS, Thurman had sweet-talked donors into tripling her budget. She took leave to serve as political director of Clinton's 1992 Georgia campaign, but stayed in health care advocacy until Clinton's second term.

Thurman is blunter, in her gracious southern way, than is common among high-level appointees. She made clear in public, within months of becoming AIDS "czarina," that she strongly disagreed with the president's decision against funding for needle exchanges to prevent the spread of AIDS among drug abusers.

And she did it without making an enemy of Barry McCaffrey, her White House counterpart for drugs, who opposed such funding. Earlier this year, she even lured the retired Persian Gulf War general to a soup kitchen for AIDS patients, where he pronounced the grub "top 1 percent Army mess hall, which I would take as a compliment."

She describes Air Force One, on which she flew most recently to Tanzania and Nigeria with Clinton, as "16 hours trapped with 40 of your co-workers, like a big bus with wings."

"Of course I'm burned out," she said, in mock exasperation. "I've been doing this for 18 years!"

But not too burned out to spend her vacation on the "family disease"—politics. Thurman's mother was a Georgia Democratic Party chairman, and Thurman knows where the power is. Her job at the Los Angeles convention was running credentials. If you wanted someone in, said Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), "who [were] you picking up the phone to talk with? Sandy Thurman. She catches you one way or the other."

In her White House office, Thurman has only six staff members to help coordinate AIDS policies that spend billions of dollars across a dozen agencies. Some colleagues in other departments describe her Jackson Place townhouse headquarters as a black hole for paperwork. She has a way of missing meetings, or saying the date is no good, that "stops progress dead in the water" when she does not like the direction her colleagues are going, one of them said.

Thurman said before leaving for Africa last month that she is "very sensitive to the quality of work that comes out of this office" and agreed she might not "move as quickly as people would like." But when she came back she took a steelier line.

"The more I thought about that, the more it ticked me off," she said. "With such a small staff we operate in triage mode, so most of our energy goes where the bodies are dropping fastest. . . . There's a certain level of arrogance to folks thinking what is their priority ought to be [my] priority."